

Message Text

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ORIGIN SCS-06

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-----085448 032255Z /13
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL SEVILLE IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CPRS: SP

SUBJECT: COMPLAINTS AGAINST NATIONWIDE LEISURE, INC.

REF: SEVILLE 0458 AND PREVIOUS

1. DEPARTMENT EFFORTS TO CONTACT MR. GRAFF OF NATIONWIDE LEISURE TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS BEING ENCOUNTERED BY AMCIT TOURISTS IN MALAGA AREA UNSUCCESSFUL.
2. WE HAVE DISCUSSED THE PROBLEM WITH MR. STEPHEN METOYER, ATTORNEY WITH CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD (CAB). CAB WELL AWARE OF NATIONWIDE LEISURE'S FINANCIAL PROBLEMS AND HAS TAKEN VARIOUS MEASURES TO ASSIST. MOST RECENT MEASURE HAS BEEN TO GRANT WAIVER FOR NATIONWIDE LEISURE TO TAP ITS ESCROW ACCOUNT HELD BY IRVING TRUST IN NEW YORK TO COVER TRANSPORTATION AND HOTEL ACCOMMODATION COSTS FOR TOUR GROUPS THAT HAVE ALREADY PAID FOR TOURS IN
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ADVANCE.

3. UNDER WAIVER AGREEMENT, IRVING TRUST WAS AUTHORIZED TO QUERY BOTH THE AIRLINE AND HOTEL TO OBTAIN TRANSPORTATION AND ACCOMMODATION CHARGES FOR EACH GROUP IN ADVANCE. AIRLINE AND HOTEL WERE TO HAVE SENT INVOICES TO IRVING TRUST. UPON RECEIPT OF INVOICES, IRVING TRUST WAS

AUTHORIZED TO CUT CHECKS PAYABLE TO AIRLINE AND HOTEL FOR EACH GROUP AS THEY DEPARTED. WE UNDERSTAND THAT AIRLINES AND MOST HOTELS CONCURRED WITH THIS PROCEDURE AND AGREED TO TRANSPORT AND ACCOMMODATE TOUR GROUPS.

4. THE ABOVE PROCEDURE DID NOT APPLY TO MR. BURTON YOUNG AND OTHER AMCITS WHO ARRIVED TWO WEEKS AGO, BUT WITH GROUP THAT ARRIVED LAST WEEK END. SINCE NO MEMBER OF THE LATTER GROUP HAS CONTACTED POST, WE ASSUME THAT PROCEDURE WORKED.

5. WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT PROCEDURE WILL BE USED FOR GROUP SCHEDULED TO DEPART AUGUST 5. SINCE NATIONWIDE LEISURE'S FINANCIAL PROBLEM APPEARS TO BE QUITE SERIOUS, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT CAB MAY CONSIDER CANCELLING THE TOUR. WE UNDERSTAND THAT AVIANCA AIRLINES HAS UNDERTAKEN THE TASK OF ATTEMPTING TO LOCATE ACCOMMODATION FOR AUGUST 5 GROUP, SINCE MOST MAJOR HOTELS HAVE DECLINED TO RECEIVE TOUR GROUPS.

6. CAB IS CONTINUING ITS EFFORTS TO ASSIST NATIONWIDE LEISURE AND WILL CONTACT DEPT FOR ANY ASSISTANCE REQUIRED. PRIOR TO MAKING A DECISION, MR. METOYER OF CAB MAY CONTACT POST FOR ANY ADDITIONAL INFO IT CAN PROVIDE RE COMPLAINTS MADE BY AMCIT GROUPS.
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7. DEPT WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP POST INFORMED. VANCE

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